



UNIVERSITY
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SYSTEM

John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges

April 24, 2017

Susan Inouye, Chair
Kapi'olani Community College Faculty Senate
4303 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

Dear Susan:

I am writing in response to the resolution adopted by the Kapi'olani Community College Faculty Senate opposing the implementation of UHCCP 4.203, Institution Set Standards. The resolution states:

“Given the impact of factors such as community college open access policy, decreasing enrollment due to economic and demographic factors, and the stringent requirements of some disciplines, the Senate opposes proposed institution-set standards in UHCCP 4.203 and recommends that each course identify its completion rate and identify strategies for improving course completion that do not compromise academic standards. Courses differ drastically in scope and depth; therefore courses should be considered independently.”

UHCCP 4.203 was adopted to comply with ACCJC and U.S. Department of Education requirements that colleges establish institutional set standards on student achievement. Course completion is one of the required standards that must be set. All colleges, including Kapi'olani, have been reporting on this standard to ACCJC for some years and the standard of 70% completion is identical to the standard Kapi'olani has been using.

The standard is set at the institution level and is the overall average of course completion. It is NOT intended to be the minimum threshold for every individual course. Some courses (and in some cases the same course in some semesters) will be above or below the 70% threshold.

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Overall improvement in course completion is one of our student success goals. Achieving this improvement may happen within the course itself or may be dependent on improvements in academic support or student support outside the class that keeps students from dropping out or failing. The suggestion in the resolution of having each discipline examine and look at ways to improve course completion within the context of the course and the students enrolled makes a lot of sense. The end result will be an improvement not only in the individual course completions but in the overall average as well. However, I want to emphasize that some, perhaps much, of the improvement will occur as we do a better job of identifying students at risk, supporting them, and removing some of the barriers that cause them to drop out.

I hope this helps address some of the misunderstandings that led to the resolution.

Sincerely,



John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges

c: Louise Pagotto
Susan Kazama
Community College Faculty Senate Chairs